

In re KANEKAR ET AL., Application No. 10/630,176
Amendment A

REMARKS

The Office action dated November 3, 2005, and the references cited have been fully considered. In response, please enter the amendments and consider the enclosed presented herein. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested. No new matter is added with this paper.

Applicants have taken this opportunity to cleanup a definition in the specification to ensure that it is defined consistent with common usage and the MPEP. No new matter is added in this paper.

Applicants appreciate the examination of the application and for determining that dependent claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 18, 23, and 24 would be allowable if re-written in independent format.

Applicants have elected to rewrite claims 6, 13, 18, and 24 in independent format. More specifically:

- claim 6 is rewritten in independent format incorporating the limitations of original claims 1, 3 and 6, without including the limitation from original claim 1 directed to the force no-hit indication as the Office broadly construed this limitation as an enable bit and is not relevant to the allowability of independent claim 6;
- claim 13 is rewritten in independent format incorporating the limitations of original claims 8, 10 and 13, without including the limitation from original claim 8 directed to the force no-hit indication as the Office broadly construed this limitation as an enable bit and is not relevant to the allowability of independent claim 13;
- claim 18 is rewritten in independent format incorporating the limitations of original claims 15, 16 and 18, without including the limitation from original claim 15 directed to the force no-hit indication as the Office broadly construed this limitation as an enable bit and is not relevant to the allowability of independent claim 18; and

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- claim 24 is rewritten in independent format incorporating the limitations of original claims 19, 21 and 24, without including the limitation from original claim 19 directed to the force no-hit indication as the Office broadly construed this limitation as an enable bit and is not relevant to the allowability of independent claim 24.

For at least the reasons determined by the Office that the subject matter of original dependent claims 6, 13, 18, and 24 was allowable, independent claims 6, 13, 18, and 24 are believed to be allowable.

Applicants appreciate the examination of original claims 1, 8, 15, and 19. The Office broadly construed the definition of force no-hit recited in each of these claims to be merely a basic enable bit for an associative memory entry. Rather than argue semantics, Applicants have amended each of these independent claims to include a definition of the force no-hit indication: "wherein the force no hit indication, when associated with a determined highest-matching entry of a group of entries participating in a lookup operation, causes the result of the lookup operation for the group of entries to be considered as not resulting in a hit" with support provided in the originally filed application, such as on page 15, lines 5-6. In fact, FIG. 4D of the present application illustrates an associative memory including both a force no-hit indication 433 and a valid indication 434, therefore, these are two different things. The force no-hit indication as defined in each of the claims and the specification is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicants believe independent claim 1 and its dependent claims of 2-5 and 7, independent claim 8 and its dependent claims of 9-12, independent claim 15 and its dependent claims of 16-17, and independent claim 19 and its dependent claims of 20-23 and 25, are allowable.

In view of the above remarks and for at least the reasons presented herein, all pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw any and all objections and/or rejections, allow all claims, and issue a timely Notice of allowance in this case. If, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite

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the prosecution of the subject application, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

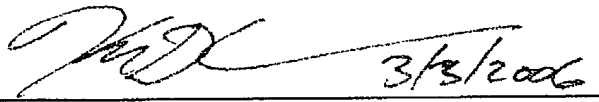
Applicant believes a one-month extension of time is required, and hereby petitions any extension of time required and has included herewith a credit card payment form (PTO-2038) for payment of the extension fee, and Applicant's representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge/credit any additional associated fees to Deposit Account No. 501430.

Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefore, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time. Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee due any under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and § 1.17 associated with this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501430.

Respectfully submitted,
The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams

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By


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